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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GABORO 00700 101904Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------059873 101917Z /73
O 101730Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1768
INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBDSSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T GABORONE 0700

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

3.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PDEV RH BC
SUBJ: RHODESIA: CONFERENCE OF ALL PARTIES

1. UK HICOM TURNER TELEPHONED MIDDAY MARCH 10 TO SAY HE HAD RECEIVED TALKING POINTS FROM WASHINGTON FOR USE IN JOINT DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT KHAMA. HE WAS AWAITING THE "TRIGGER" AND WONDERED ABOUT MY AVAILABILITY TO ACCOMPANY HIM. I SAID I HAD NOT RECEIVED TALKING POINTS OR INSTRUCTIONS.

2. TURNER TELEPHONED AGAIN 1645 HOURS LOCAL REPORTING RECEIPT OF FLASH MESSAGE INSTRUCTING HIM TO ACCOMPANY ME TO JOINT DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT KHAMA. HE WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE APPOINT-MENT AT 1715 HOURS LOCAL.
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3. I REACHED DEPARTMENT (AF/S) AT 1715 AND WAS INFORMED THAT I SHOULD NOT ACCOMPANY. (AN HOUR LATER, AF/S RETURNED MY CALL TO SAY THAT FLASH CABLE WAS BEING PREPARED AUTHORIZING JOINT DEMARCHE AND THAT I COULD SO INFORM GOB, WHICH I HAVE DONE.)

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4. HICOM TURNER CALLED ON ME AFTER RETURNING FROM MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA AND BRIEFED ME ON DEVELOPMENTS. FOLLOWING IS SUBSTANCE OF REPORT HE IS SENDING TO LONDON.

5. PRESIDENT KHAMA, ACCOMPANIED BY CABINET SECRETARY STEENKAMP, SENIOR PRIVATE CECRETARY LEGWAILA AND PER SEC, MINEXTAFF, MPOTOKWANE, RECEIVED TURNER AT 1715 FOR 15-MINUTE MEETING. TURNER SAID HE RELAYED TALKING POINTS, EMPHASIZING HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS (A) THAT PRESIDENT KHAMA ENDORSE HOLDING OF A CONFERENCE OF ALL PARTIES; AND (B) THAT PRESIDENT MAKE KNOWN THIS ENDORSE-MENT TO FRONTLINE COLLEAGUES AND PATRIOTIC FRONT. TURNER SAID HE NOTED THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE WAS IN LINE WITH WHAT EXTAFFMIN MOGWE HAS BEEN SAYING, PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE NEED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PARTIES IN THE NEGOTIATION. TURNER NOTED THAT "SALISBURY GROUP" SHOULD NOW SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE.

6. TURNER SAID INITIAL REACTIONS OF PRESIDENT KHAMA AND HIS ADVISERS REFLECTED SKEPTICISM ABOUT LIKELIHOOD THAT ALL PARTIES WOULD PARTICIPATE. AFTER VENTING DOUBTS, HOWEVER, TURNR SAID PRESIDENT KHAMA CONCLUDED BY ENDORSING THE CONFERENCE PROPOSAL AND ASSURING TURNER HE WOULD INFORM HIS FRONTLINE COLLEAGUES OF HIS ENDORSEMENT -- ALTHOUGH DEPLORING BAD COMMUNICATIONS WITH MAPUTO WHICH MIGHT DELAY MESSAGE TO MACHEL. AS FOR IVFORMING PATRIOTIC FRONT OF HIS ENDORSEMENT, PRESIDENT KHAMA SAID HE COULD NOT DO SO UNTIL HE HAD CONSULTED HIS FRONTLINE COLLEAGUES. TURNER HAS INFORMED LONDON THAT HE BELIEVES THE ABOVE ENDORSE-

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MENT IS AS MUCH AS COULD BE EXPECTED AND THAT HE IS ENCOURAGED THAT GOB WILL CARRY OUT ITS PLEDGE OF WARM SUPPORT.

7. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND. IN REVIEWING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, TURNER SAID HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT DEMARCHE WOULD DEPEND UPON REACTION FROM NYERERE AND SOUTH AFRICA. TURNER'S TELEGRAM FROM OWEN THIS EVENING SAID NYERERE'S REACTION WAS "REGARDED AS ENCOURAGING"; HENCE THE DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE DEMARCHE. HE HAD GONE AHEAD BECAUSE AT THIS LATE HOUR FRIDAY AFTERNOON HE NEW IT WAS THE LAST CHANCE TO GET PRESIDENT KHAMA BEFORE THE WEEKEND. (PRESIDENT KHAMA RIGIDLY RESERVES WEEKENDS FOR REST AND RECUPERATION.) COMMENT: MA CALL TO MINEXTAFF PERM SEC MPOTOKWANE ASSOCIATING MYSELF WITH DEMARCHE, LESS THAN TWO HOURS AFTER HICOM MADE IT, HAS VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED ANY GAP HERE BETWEEN UK AND US ON THIS ISSUE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT GOB HAS LONG FAVORED THE CONCEPT OF A BROADLY-BASED CONFERENCE AS A MEANS OF ASSURING THAT POSITIONS TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE SERIOUS AND RESPONSIBLE. NORLAND

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
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Subject: RHODESIA: CONFERENCE OF ALL PARTIES
TAGS: PDEV, RH, BC, (KHAMA, SERETSE M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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